

ELHT Impact Survey: Literature searches, July 2016: Summary of results

Survey procedure

A personalised email was sent on 5 July 2015 to 64 individuals who between them had requested 92 literature searches from the ELHT Library & Knowledge Service between April 2015 and March 2016. They were asked to complete a questionnaire via Survey Monkey by Friday 22 July. As only 14 responses had been received by 25 July, a reminder was sent and the deadline extended to Friday 29 July; this encouraged an increased total of 30 useful responses.

Emails were personalised, with the details of the search requested included. Where an individual had requested more than one search, they were sent an email for each search; two people completed the survey more than once (for different searches).

Responses to Literature Search survey	Responses at 28.7.16	Response rate
No. invited to complete survey	64	
No. starting the survey	33	51.6%
No. completing most sections	30	46.9%

A similar survey in June 2015, also sent to 64 search requesters, had a completion rate of 37.5%.

Q1 Which Division or Directorate do you work in?

Division/Directorate	Responses	%
Diagnosics & Clinical Support	11	33.3%
Family Care	3	9.1%
Integrated Care Group	3	9.1%
Surgery & Anaesthetics	7	21.2%
Estates & Facilities	0	0.0%
Finance & Informatics	1	3.0%
HR&OD	4	12.1%
Other Corporate (incl. Executive, Governance)	4	12.1%
Total respondents	33	

The D&CS and SAS Divisions are currently those most engaged with the Clinical Outreach Librarian.

Q2 Please indicate which staff group you belong to?

Staff group	Responses	%
Administrative & Clerical	3	9.4%
Additional Clinical Services	0	0.0%
Additional Professional Scientific & Technical	0	0.0%
Allied Health Professionals	12	37.5%
Estates & Ancillary	0	0.0%
Healthcare Scientists	0	0.0%
Medical & Dental	7	21.9%
Nursing & Midwifery Registered	7	21.9%
Executive Director/Director/Non-Executive Director	0	0.0%
Senior Manager	3	9.4%
Students	0	0.0%
Total respondents	33	

Q3 Did this search lead you to change some aspect of patient care or treatment?

(Please select as many of these statements as are appropriate)

*NB For Questions 3-7, listed options have been reordered by the frequency of response. Responses selected by over 50% of respondents are highlighted in **Green**, by 20-49% in **Amber**.*

Option	Responses	%
Other (please specify) – see below	11	36.7%
Advice given to patients or carers	9	30.0%
No, it did no change any aspects of patient care or treatment	7	23.3%
Diagnosis	5	16.7%
Choice of drugs or other treatments	5	16.7%
Choice of tests	4	13.3%
Reduce length of hospital stay	3	10.0%
Quality of life for patients or family	3	10.0%
Increase length of hospital stay	0	0.0%
Total respondents	30	
'Other' responses		
• Investigating benefits of early mobilisation to quicken recovery		
• Adjust way we prescribe spectacles.		
• I needed information to help me write a report for a litigious situation		
• Understanding of patients' difficulties meant better care		
• Understanding referral trends		
• Re evaluation of service		
• Improved management		
• The information was needed to access whether change was necessary. From the results of the lit search it was decided no change was required.		
• Best practice in treatment options		
• Information used for training clinical staff		

Q4 Did the information help you avoid any of the following?

(Please select as many as are appropriate):

Option	Responses	%
No, it didn't help avoid adverse events	12	40.0%
Unnecessary costs	9	30.0%
Unnecessary outpatient visits	6	20.0%
Other (please specify) – see below	6	20.0%
Unnecessary tests or procedures	5	16.7%
Unnecessary referrals	5	16.7%
Unnecessary hospital admissions	3	10.0%
Hospital acquired infections	3	10.0%
Unnecessary surgery	3	10.0%
Patient mortality	1	3.3%
Total respondents	30	
'Other' responses		
• Choose correct surgery type		
• Avoided non-attendance at subsequent screening visit		
• Unnecessary use of antibiotics		
• Hoping to use it at a later date to influence care		
• Early stages as yet – looking into it		

60% of respondents recorded the search results as contributing in some form to cost savings and unnecessary events (e.g. outpatient visits, tests and referrals), which in turn have a cost implication.

Q5 Did the information provided in the literature search influence any of the following? (Please select as many as are appropriate):

Option	Responses	%
Advice given to colleagues	14	46.7%
Service improvement	11	36.7%
Care pathway review/development	9	30.0%
Presentation or training session	9	30.0%
Service planning and decision making	9	30.0%
Audit	8	26.7%
Guideline, policy or procedure review	7	23.3%
Other (please specify) – see below	5	16.7%
Managing costs/cost improvement	4	13.3%
Legal or ethical issues	3	10.0%
No, it didn't influence any of the above	3	10.0%
Funded research	2	6.7%
Commissioning	0	0.0%
Contracting	0	0.0%
Total respondents	30	
Other responses		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measuring outcomes/effectiveness of treatments The information was to see if the present way of working was still the right way given the evidence now available. It was found to still be relevant to continue as we were Informed thinking about an unfunded research project I requested 2 journals but there would have been a cost involved – I managed to get them off one of the surgeons who subscribes 		

Literature searches enhance advice given to colleagues and contribute to service planning, improvement and training.

Q6 Has your use of the Literature Search Service ... :

Option	Yes	No	% Yes
Saved you time?	27	1	96.4%
Raised your awareness of evidence based resources?	25	1	96.2%
Kept you up to date?	25	2	92.6%
Improved your ability to access resources?	23	2	92.0%
Improved your own searching skills?	12	9	57.1%
Prompted you to seek training in the use of online/library resources?	10	11	47.6%
Total respondents (responding to at least one option)	30		
There was no 'Other' response option			

Those using the Literature Search service therefore report considerable personal benefit from its use.

Q7 Did the information provided have any impact on your learning or teaching?

(Please select as many as are appropriate)

Option	Responses	%
I learned something new	22	73.3%
I shared the information with colleagues	19	63.3%
I satisfied my curiosity	14	46.7%
I used it for teaching purposes	10	33.3%
It confirmed my prior knowledge or belief	7	23.3%
It refreshed my memory of the topic	7	23.3%
I used it for course work or a dissertation	7	23.3%
Other (please specify) – see below	5	16.7%
I used it in writing for publication	4	13.3%
I used it for supervision	2	6.7%
No, it didn't impact on my learning or teaching	0	0.0%
Total respondents	30	
Other responses		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used it to check I hadn't missed any research papers before submitting a proposal to the research design service 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I used it for audit and poster presentation 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision on working was made as a result of the literature search 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report writing 		

The vast majority of respondents requesting searches learned something new from the results and shared the lessons with colleagues.

Q8 Yours responses so far will be useful for a comparative analysis of feedback on our literature searches. For a detailed assessment of impact, however, it would be really useful to have some specific details/examples/comments you would like to offer on the value of the literature search to you and how it has impacted patient care or other aspects of your role.

Responses (13) – headings assigned on collating results
Patient care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was relevant to the topic asked for, helped decrease patient morbidity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It helped with better care of my patient and improved patient experience, safety and clinical effectiveness.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I used the search to present to the Medicines Management Unit, to try and get the drug approved locally. It was used to show how testosterone alleviates symptoms in some women post-surgery.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The evidence based information from the literature search was used to train/develop awareness of clinical staff. The training was about the impact of cancer services on black minority ethnic communities.
Safe practice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff working in the theatre recovery areas challenged whether it was necessary to wear theatre hats in that environment. Unfortunately no-one in the department was able to spend the time away from the clinical area to access the literature to see what the evidence was. The library service literature search was used. 10 theatre recovery areas were [also] contacted around the country to see what their practice was. The practical evidence along with the literature search was given to the Band 7s and theatre matron to make a decision upon. It was decided as a result that staff needed to continue to wear theatre hats.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some of what we do is based on tradition. We don't have the time to do lit searches to inform our practice. The lit search service enabled us to look at an aspect of what we do to establish whether it needed to continue or be changed. Having a service to do the lit

search meant we could look at the evidence and re-evaluate what we do. If we had been left to find the evidence ourselves we would have had less confidence in the results covering the range of evidence and it probably [would] never have been done as trying to find the time to prioritise it would have been impossible.
Research, publication and study
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used the library service to learn how to do a lit search before completed one for my MSc dissertation. After the MSc was finished, wanted to submit the dissertation to the research design service. Advised to use the library service to check that no information had been missed before submitting it. Some papers were found that I had missed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I feel that the support given was beneficial in identifying pieces of work already undertaken to give me ideas for a potential piece of work for publication.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I required the literature search to complete an essay to submit to university to gain access to a course, and I am pleased to say I was accepted onto the course and have just completed my first year. Since starting university I have attended in-house literature training which I found incredibly useful and have since used to help me complete further assignments. It is a great service to offer. Judy Richardson who helped with the search was incredibly knowledgeable and extremely helpful.
Time saving/efficiency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The search service was invaluable in my role, making it much easier for me but also ensuring that it was more comprehensive than I could have made it. The results were emailed then to me making the whole process smooth and efficient.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost effective method of updating knowledge base for all core treatments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Search done by a member of ELHT staff on my behalf. Was done within a few days and yielded appropriate results.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very helpful service from library staff, wouldn't hesitate to use their services again.
Search & computer skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literature searches are extremely important. Not all individuals have enough computer knowledge to do so, computer knowledge change[s] rapidly not just literature search, but the whole existence of library is highly important simply for MOTIVATION, PEOPLE INTERACTIONS IN VARIOUS FIELDS IS IMPORTANT. One cannot get to see all journals in one place. Interaction and visual imprint has far more importance than computer screen. Literature search should NOT BE STOPPED.

Q9 Would you recommend the Literature Search Service to colleagues?

Response	Responses	%
Yes	30	100.00%
No	0	0.00%
Total respondents	30	
Please add a comment on the reason for your answer		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More hospital planning decisions should be evidence-based 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to improve clinical effectiveness 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A fantastic support to building our services and improving them for the future 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's a really good service that enables nursing practice to be informed and up to date 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need to be making more informed decisions, however trying to get away from the clinical area within work time to access research is impossible 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lit search service managed to find things I have missed. The teaching session was excellent 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helpful 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quick easy and comprehensive 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great help! 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incredibly useful resource 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have used in the past – Mrs Richardson was extremely helpful on that occasion 		

Q10 May we contact you for further information about how you have used the literature search results?

Response	Responses	%
Yes	21	70.0%
No	9	
Total respondents	30	

Q11 If you are happy to be contacted, please provide your email address below.

Number of unique names entered	17
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